

The **SOUTHEAST NEWS**

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 2 - Number 12

SEPTEMBER, 1954



"The Old Rugged Cross"

SERVICE OF DEDICATION - WAYCROSS FAMILY CAMP

(See page 4)

SOCIAL ACTION INSTITUTE

By Carolyn P. Welch

The Council for Social Action really came alive for at least two of us from the Southeast Convention this summer. The place was the Social Action Institute at Farmingham, Mass.; the time was the last week in July; and the two were Mrs. Lowell Smoot and myself. The C.S.A. had invited the chairmen of area Social Action Committees (that's me) and the chairmen of the Women's Fellowship Social Action Committees (we don't have one, so our president, Mrs. Smoot, represented the Women's Fellowship) to attend this Institute. These official representatives from all over the eastern part of the U. S. gathered with about 75 other Congregational Christians at the beautiful Conference Center of the Massachusetts C. C. Conference.

The C.S.A., having received an overwhelming vote of confidence at the General Council meeting at New Haven the latter part of June, is starting on a new type of program. A part of the new program is to get more church members -- like you and me -- really taking part in Social Action. Some people are scared of the name, but it only means Christian men and women should try to influence their communities, their states and their nation toward policies and programs that are more in line with what Jesus would want for us.

Institute Highlights

One of the high points of the Institute came when we had a chance to hear Dr. John Bennett, a distinguished Congregational Christian theologian and former member of the board of directors of C.S.A. He emphasized the fact that the whole basis of Christian Social Action is "we love because he first loved us." (I John 4:19) He also said that the Congregational Christian Churches include a smaller variety of types and backgrounds of people than any other major denomination. One important function of C.S.A., he pointed out, is to remind us of the interests and points of view of people who are not a part of our denomination.

Another high point was the address by Dr. Cameron Hall of the National Council of Churches on mccarthyism -- what it is, what causes it and what the churches can do about it. This very fine address is to be published in one of the fall issues of *Social Action* magazine, so be sure your subscription is sent in so you won't miss it!

And how I wish you could have heard Dr. Herman Reissig's clear, simple "Survey of World Problems". He made the big issues of the world seem understandable, and in each case told us something that we as Christians could do about it, so we would not feel so helpless: support the United Nations; contribute to the missionary work of our church; cultivate within our churches the sense of the value of each individual, and at the same time the responsibility of each toward society as a whole.

Did You Know . . .

. . . That many of the early Congregationalists of our country did not help the poor, because they

believed that if a person was in want it was God's will, and we must not interfere with His discipline? Dr. Frederick Fagley mentioned this, and then pointed out that it shows that people **do change!** Certainly no Congregational Christian of today would hold such a view.

. . . That 56% of the paid leaders of the CIO are members of Protestant churches? Dr. Hall told us this; and it comes as a surprise to many who thought that all labor leaders are either Catholics or people who care nothing about religion.

. . . That Congress has not passed any civil rights legislation since 1875? Dr. Galen Weaver made this point, but added that Negroes have steadily gained civil rights, for in the same period they have taken 35 cases to the Supreme Court and won 32 of them.

What Other Conferences Are Doing

One of the most interesting and helpful parts of the Institute was the discussions, under the leadership of Dr. Ray Gibbons, with the social action leaders from other states. It was especially helpful to know what the others are doing. Most of the states have as a major project this year the resettling of refugees from Europe and the Near and Far East. The Ohio Conference, for example, has pledged itself to find homes and jobs for 40 refugee families. Another major interest is in juvenile delinquency. Many of the states are making a study of that problem and what the churches can do about it. A number are studying World Order and the United Nations. This seems like a big subject, but there are also problems nearer at hand. For example, New Jersey is concerned about what the churches can do to help the farmers get a better price for their milk. Gambling is another subject that a number are concerned about -- and that matter is quite close to home, especially for those of us who live in Alabama!

Prayer and Action

Finally, there was a deep sense on the part of the men and women at the Institute that Christian Social Action is basically linked to the life of prayer. This came out when a number of those present, quite independently of one another, suggested to the dean that the Conference Center needed a place of quiet for private devotions. There were, of course, the mornings services of worship, which were very fine, but we felt the need of a place for personal prayer. So a collection was taken and \$30 donated for making such a retreat. For in the Christian life, prayer and action go hand in hand.

Rev. Hunt Commissioned Kentucky Colonel

At a church dinner in the Community Church of Stearns, Ky., on June 28 the Rev. George S. Hunt was presented a Commission as Kentucky

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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY COMING

Dr. Sidney M. Berry of London, England, Minister and Secretary of the International Congregational Council, will be the featured speaker at the six fall association and conference meetings of the Southeast Convention. His itinerary is as follows: October 2, North Alabama Association at Liberty Grove Church; Oct. 3, Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, Ala.; First Church, Birmingham; Oct. 4, Central Alabama Association, Eclectic Union Church; Oct. 6, East Alabama Association, Pleasant Grove Church, Lafayette; Oct. 7, Lanett Church; Oct. 9, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, Corbin, Ky.; Oct. 10, First Church, Chattanooga; Oct. 12, Atlanta churches; Oct. 13, Fredonia Church, Barnesville, for Georgia Conference; Oct. 14, South Alabama - Northwest Florida Conference, Crestview, Fla.

Dr. Berry, distinguished British Congregational Churchman, was elected to his present post in 1949. Prior to that time he served for 25 years as the General Executive Officer of the Congregational Churches in England and Wales.

He recently visited the Congregational Churches in South India, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. His world tour took nine months and carried him to five different countries. He was warmly received and often given receptions by the Government, as in New Zealand, and by numberless civic groups, as well as by the churches. He preached in key churches of these countries including the pulpits of the Cathedrals at Sidney and Perth.

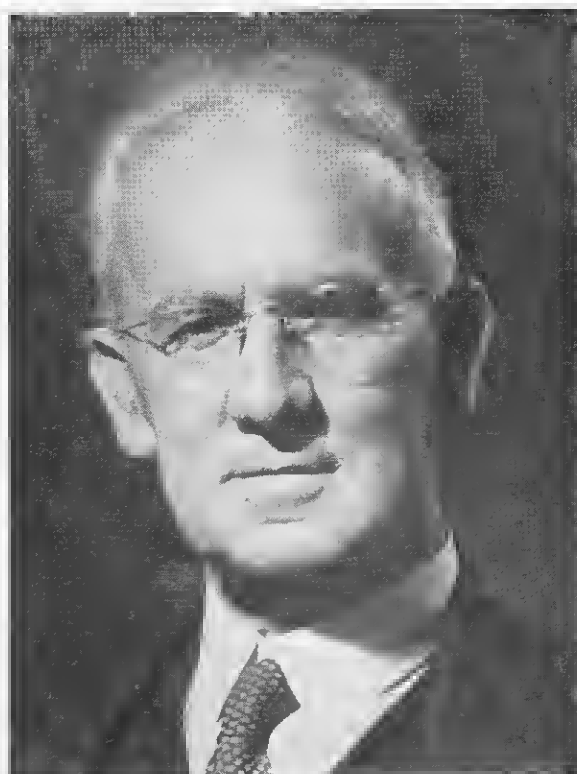
He also made a fellowship trip to the churches in Germany, taking special note of the great refugee camps in Germany and Austria.

The United States is not a new country to Dr. Berry, who has visited here many times, visiting Congregational Christian Churches from coast to coast.

Born in Southport, Lancashire, the son of a minister, Dr. Berry was educated at Tettenhall College, Staffordshire; Clare College Cambridge and Mansfield College, Oxford. He entered the Congregational ministry in 1906, first being a pastor in a little country church, but soon went on to a suburban pulpit in Manchester.

In 1923 Dr. Berry became Secretary of the Congregational Union of England and Wales and was for a period Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council and Vice President of the British Council of Churches, an interdenominational organization which includes the Church of England and the Free Churches. In his work as Minister of the International Congregational Council, Dr. Berry often meets with leaders of Congregationalism in Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

The International Congregational Council was formed in order that Congregationalists in every part of the world might have a permanent organization to keep their churches in close and constant contact with each other and to provide a source of information to study the needs of the churches in the different countries. It promotes exchange visits between ministers, theological



Dr. Sidney M. Berry

THE MODERATOR SAYS...

The year 1954-55 is to be an historic year for the Southeast Convention! We are going to be governing ourselves completely. We made the decision to do this at the Convention Meeting in Lanett, Ala., last May 15 and 16. It took courage to "launch out into the deep," but we had faith that with the Master to guide us we would be able to sail through to our destination.

It is the prayer of your Moderator that each of you will be conscious of the part you must play in this great venture. For the ship to sail smoothly you must help to keep it in balance by your monthly contribution to Our Christian World Mission. This monthly contribution should be sent to the Convention office.

For the past many years now, the Board of Home Missions has kept us going. Now we have reached the age of accountability. We have grown up and we are taking our rightful place within the total fellowship.

In the weeks ahead your elected Board of Directors and Staff will keep you posted as to what is happening and how you may best be of service as this plan for autonomy is developed. With everyone thus informed and concerned about the future of the Southeast Convention, this year will go down in the annals of Christianity as an historic year.

—Lowell A. Smoot

teachers and students, representatives of laymen's work, women's work and particularly youth work, so that its world fellowship may be made along every line of the churches' program.

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ALCOHOL DOES NOT MAKE ALCOHOLICS

We feel that, to be sure, alcoholism could not exist without alcohol; but alcoholics are people and it seems absurd to blame the substance for what the human organism does with it. In our culture we shall always have alcohol. The task is to teach humanity how to use it intelligently and to avoid its abuse.

Anyone may drink alcoholic beverages; he might even get moderately drunk upon occasion. This would not make him a sick personality. It would not make him an alcoholic.

Alcoholics are made, not by alcohol, but by people who use it. Alcoholism today is an outgrowth of our culture—of what our culture does to some personalities. We tried to ban alcohol by prohibiting its use and made the problem worse. What we need to recognize is that "alcoholics are sick people." When we realize this we will have taken the first great step towards the eradication of alcoholism.

—Lawrence F. Wooley, M.D.,
Vice Pres., National Committee
on Alcohol Hygiene

* * *

The National Committee on Alcohol Hygiene, Inc., is primarily interested in practical work, not in academic research, and desires to be of concrete aid to physicians, ministers, and their co-workers in understanding and in dealing with the immediate problems presented by the alcoholic indi-

Our cover picture this month was taken at the Waycross Family Camp. As part of the dedication service on the final evening, the Music and Drama Workshop presented a series of inspiring tableaux. The one pictured was first. As the Choir sang "The Old Rugged Cross", the curtain opened to reveal a young person kneeling in dedication before a rough-hewn cross. The significance and beauty of the presentation left a lasting impression on young and old alike.

OUR MODERATOR AND FIRST LADY

Lowell A. Smoot, elected Moderator of the Southeast Convention since May 17, 1954, is pastor of the United Church in Phenix City, Ala. He is a native of Woodbury, Ga., and grew up in the Jones Chapel Church.

Mr. Smoot received two years of high school training at Thorsby Institute, Thorsby, Ala. In 1941 he entered Piedmont College, Demorest, Ga., but after one year he entered the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army and was attached to the 103rd Station Hospital serving as non-commissioned officer in charge of the operating room. Most of his tour of duty was in Africa and Italy.

After the war, Mr. Smoot re-entered Piedmont College, not only to finish his school work but to marry the girl, Mary Margaret Wynn, whom he had met at a summer camp earlier in life.

When Mr. Smoot finished his college work, he chose the School of Religion at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., because he planned to work in the south. In 1950 he and his wife accepted the call to Phenix City.

During the past five years his activities have been wide and varied. In addition to his pastoral work he has led his congregation in the building of a new parsonage and at the present time an educational annex 34 x 90 feet is almost completed. This annex will provide needed Sunday School, recreational and fellowship space. Mr. Smoot has just successfully led the Convention to an over-subscription of its quota in the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign. He has engaged in many other important activities too numerous to mention.

Lowell Smoot stated that much of the credit for what he has accomplished should go to his partner, Mary Margaret Smoot -- that she is the other half of the team. At the present time Mrs. Smoot is president of the Southeast Convention Women's Fellowship and past president of the Alabama Women's Fellowship.

After graduating from Piedmont College, Mrs. Smoot taught for one year at Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala. Then she went back to join the faculty at Piedmont, perhaps because she knew her husband-to-be would be back there soon. While

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vidual as well as the related problems affecting the family unit and community. Alcohol Hygiene and other educational material is sent without charge. Write the Convention office or The National Committee on Alcohol Hygiene, Inc., 490 Peachtree St., N.E., Suite 243, Atlanta 3, Georgia.

The Rev. Scott Morris and Mrs. Henry Abbott were in charge of the workshop. Any local group could put on such an impressive service, for the only "props" used were those found around the camp, bedspreads, old boards, silver candy wrappers for stars. The hymns were selected from among old favorites, and a minimum of practice was required. We truly worshipped that night!

— SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

The next few days are of such great importance in the life of our churches and the Southeast Convention that I'm going to use my page to say in big letters — big enough to be posted on the church bulletin board . . .

Coming Soon!

“Our Day of Decision”

(The story of the Southeast Convention's Program of Progress)

A 90 frame filmstrip in color with recorded sound, to be shown in every church of the Convention during the week of

September 20 - 24

If the day and time has not as yet been announced in your church, ask your pastor or church clerk.

On the same evening an official meeting of the Congregation to decide upon a goal for

OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION

Don't miss this big day in your church!

Take part in this Every Church Canvass!

SCHEDULE FOR FALL CONFERENCE AND ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

North Alabama Association at Liberty Grove Church	October 2 - 3
Central Alabama Association at Eclectic Union Church	October 4 - 5
East Alabama Association at Lofoyette Pleasant Grove	October 6 - 7
Kentucky-Tennessee Conference at Corbin Pilgrim Church	October 9 - 10
Georgia - South Carolina Conference at Barnesville Fredonia	October 12 - 13
South Alabama - Northwest Florida Assn. at Crestview Dorcas	October 14 - 15

WADLEY SR. HI CONFERENCE

By Annie R. Campbell

Twenty-five young people enrolled for the Senior High Conference at Wadley this year, held at Southern Union College July 18-24. It was a week crammed full of work, worship and recreation. In fact, the young people suggested a little more free time for next year.

Miss Agnes Wood, our missionary from Africa, told us many interesting things about the Union of South Africa and about the school where she is a Home Economics teacher. She also showed us slides of her work there. Miss Wood entered into the faculty stunt with fervor and enthusiasm, and when the students put the work chairman up to making the faculty wash dishes the last night, she went at dishwashing like an old hand. One incident she told us really gave us a laugh. She said that at one of their programs of entertainment in Africa, a student limped out with a huge bandage on her knee and sang in a sorrowful tone, "I come from Alabama with a bandage on my knee." Miss Wood has left with us a couple of curios which will be available to any church when it has a program on Africa.

Shigemi Morita, a student from Kyoto, Japan, added much to the conference with his willingness to help in any capacity. Besides showing his slides, he acted as a counsellor to some of the boys.

We were delighted to have with us some members from the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Mrs. F. J. Mehrtens, wife of an E. and R. minister, directed our Choir and assisted the Dean of Women, Mrs. Smoot. Her son, Fritz Mehrtens, and Amelia Klein attended as campers.

At a Vesper Service one evening, a beautiful and reverent interpretation of the Lord's Prayer was acted in ballet under the leadership of Lola Albright. The choir sang the Lord's Prayer in accompaniment.

One of the highlights of the conference was the presence one evening of Miss Julia Johnson, principal of Cotton Valley School near Tuskegee, and sister of the president of Fiske University. Miss Johnson conducted the Vesper Service and then showed us slides of our Congregational Christian School at Cotton Valley. We marvelled at the amount of community work and training of Sunday School teachers that she did, in addition to her regular teaching.

We were glad to have our Southeast Convention P. F. President, Millard Fuller, come over and report on the National P. F. meeting at New Haven, Conn. As things worked out, we were able to have Elfrieda Landes, a summer worker, with us too, to act as work chairman and do many other things. Our old faithfuls, Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, Dr. Guy Colbert, President Clyde Flannery, Mrs. Lowell Smoot, Rev. Carl Dollar, with Mrs. Dollar to feed us of the best, all helped to make the conference a success. We were grateful to Dr. Colbert for bringing us some excellent slides on the making of the new Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

At our closing Communion and Candle light Service, the following young people served as deacons: Joe Adams, Fritz Mehrtens, Jean Vincent and Sue Newman. Miss Clarine Holmes, of Lang-



GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA PF OFFICERS

Left to right: Don Smiley, Edna Grantham, Jane Henderson, Wyndal Hand, Ben Cooper, Suzanne Warren, Wilfordine Royal, Billy Strickland.

dale, expressed her desire to be a missionary and a short service of dedication was held to encourage her in this direction.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

Alabama-Northwest Florida Conference: President, Joe R. Adams; Vice President, Jean Vincent; Secretary, Clarine Holmes; and Treasurer, Edgar John Hopkins.

Chairmen of the three Commissions: Faith, Glenda Sue Newman; Action, Randall Sims; Fellowship, Linda Looser.

Junior High Representatives: North Alabama, Diane Kretschmar; Central Alabama, Barbara Fralic; East Alabama, Ruthie Hardy; South Alabama-Northwest Florida, Lamar Rister. The Rev. Carl Dollar is Adult Advisor.

GOALS -- 1954-55

To spend less money for ourselves and more for food for hungry people; to give 25c per person toward state expenses; and to give our missionary collection during the camp week to "Joe" Morita for his school expenses. (\$14.04)

Georgia-South Carolina Conference: President, Wilfordine Royal; Vice President, Ben Cooper; Secretary-Treasurer, Jan Henderson.

Chairmen of three commissions: Faith, Harriet Shaw; Action, Wyndal Hand; Fellowship, Suzanne Warren.

Junior High Representatives: South Georgia, Don Smiley; Central Georgia, Edna Grantham; North Georgia, Billie Strickland.

Mrs. W. L. Watson is the Adult Sponsor.

GOALS for 1954-55

1) Study the new Three Commission plan for Pilgrim Fellowship.

2) Observe Work Day for Christ October 23.

3) Observe Youth Week, January 30 - February 6, 1955.

4) Adopt a budget for the year: a) 10% to 50% for Our Christian World Mission, b) 25c a member to state expenses (paid in Sept.), c) 25c

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GEORGIA WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Georgia Women's Fellowship held its annual Retreat at Camp Waycross August 19-20. In the absence of the President, Mrs. D. W. Shepherd, the Vice-President, Mrs. H. Y. Sears, presided for the opening session. Mrs. Shepherd had sent her written resignation as state president, and it was presented and accepted with regret. She had invited the Convention president, Mrs. Lowell Smoot, to come to the Retreat as Resource Leader, and Mrs. Smoot presided the second day, in the absence of Mrs. Sears.

This was one of the most inspiring and informative Retreats I have ever attended. There was enough time to talk and plan together the things that make a more united fellowship and offer a challenge to do more in His name than we ever have before. About 25 were present for all sessions, with others coming in for one day.

Superintendent Butterfield brought us a message on "Our Goal and the Challenge". We hope all will accept the challenge and take it back to their own churches.

Mrs. Lowell Smoot presented "Our Tools and How to Use Them", in a delightfully informal manner with the literature as a big pack of books and herself as a book worm eating her way through them and describing them as she ate. I am sure that our literature will be used to help us grow spiritually and to see the need for a greater support of our mission work.

The clever and original TV Show given by Mrs. Percy told of the work of our denomination in schools, colleges and hospitals. The committee report of Miss Alice Leach on "Devotional Life" was also read by Mrs. Percy, since Miss Leach was unable to attend.

Mrs. Albert Mixon, Literature Chairman, gave an outstanding report, listing and presenting books that may be obtained from the public libraries and others that may be ordered from the Pilgrim Press. A very challenging Friendly Service report was given by the chairman, Mrs. Woodrow James, and her state-wide project may be read in this issue.

We also had an interesting book review by Mrs. E. M. Butterfield on "Man and God in the City", the mission study book on Home Mission work by Dr. T. Miller.

Most of the devotional services and programs presented were taken from the women's packet, made up of suggested programs for use in various societies. This packet is still available from Mrs. Peter Doherty, Columbus, Ga.

Our first day ended with a sumptuous banquet in a private dining room of the camp cafeteria, with a program on our ministries in India and Ceylon presented by Mrs. Lowell Smoot. Excellent slides on their work in India were shown and explained by Dr. and Mrs. Riggs. He is a missionary doctor and she is a nurse.

The second day began with a devotional service, followed by a business session. One of the most important items considered was a Constitution for our fellowship. A Constitution Committee was appointed, and a constitution written up and presented to the group for approval. This will be mailed out to all societies in Georgia for their



Shigemi Morita

Japanese Student at Southern Union

Shigemi Morita, a Japanese student from Kyoto, Japan, will enter Southern Union College in September. Shigemi's sponsor is Pressley Ingram of the Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Shigemi Morita is the son of a physician who was interned by the Russians during the war. It is presumed that he was sent to Siberia. He has a mother, brother and sister who live in Kyoto, Japan. He studied at Doshisha University in Kyoto, a school partly supported by the Congregational Christian Churches.

Shigemi attended the Pilgrim Fellowship Council at New Haven, Conn., in June, and the Wadley Senior and Junior High Conferences as well as the Women's Retreat, showing his interesting color slides of Japan. He also attended Camp Waycross, showing his slides and adding much to the camp programs.

Georgia Women's Project

At the Woman's Retreat held at Waycross, Ga., August 19-20, the Georgia women decided they would like to have a state-wide Friendly Service Project. They decided to raise money for mosquito netting for Ryder Memorial Hospital, Humacao,

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consideration, and voted upon at the Georgia Conference meeting October 12-13.

There was a good representation from our churches, but we hope to have a larger attendance next year. We are grateful for the time and effort of Mary Margaret Smoot, who did everything possible to help out and make the Retreat an outstanding success. We hope that everyone went home with lots of helpful ideas for their own societies, whether large or small, as the program was planned with "something for everyone".

We were glad to have Mrs. Ashley Hobbs with us and welcome her into our fellowship.

Mrs. Lester Shaw, Reporter.

THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH... At Garden City

By ANNIE C. CAMPBELL

Many changes have taken place at Garden City and within our church during the last year or two. Some time ago the ancient covered bridge burned, leaving several of our members with a long way around to get to church. The old railroad water tank was demolished. The barn on the parsonage lot was dissembled and used to make a garage shed for the pastor's car.

We have had a feeling of being continually "dug up" this last year. First for the highway, then water pipes, and then gas pipes. The creek between the church and parsonage was moved to the south of the parsonage and dirt was filled into the old creek bed by the Highway Department. The church itself was moved back forty feet to make room for a double highway, and was raised to the level of the road. A long porch, white columns and a steeple and cross were added to the front of the church. The church has been painted and the parsonage is to be painted soon. The Woman's Fellowship paid for the struggling shrubbery--struggling to live against the heat and drought. The class in Agriculture at Hanceville High School, of which one of our young people was a member, planted the shrubbery for us.

One of our newer members, Marvin Williams, has given to the church the sign in front, designating that it is a Congregational Christian Church. He also built a large sign board for us to place pictures and signs upon, according to the season of the year. The Sunday School paid for the materials and he did the work.

The town of Garden City was incorporated not long ago. Now we have city water, more telephones, and a good second-hand fire engine. Gas has just come through our way too. The Cullman-Winston County Bookmobile comes monthly to the Garden City Library to bring fresh supplies of books. Indoor rest rooms are being installed at the public schools.



River baptism on August 8—Standing, left to right: Rev. Annie Campbell, Jean and Margie Vincent, Glenda Washburn, Betty Fay and Geraldine Kretschmar, Rev. Clyde Flannery. Front row, left to right: Harald Kretschmar, Peggy Seibert, Diane Kretschmar.

We have been fortunate this past year to have at our church such outside speakers as Miss Ione Catton, Miss Edith Douglas from Turkey, Miss Agnes Kang from China, Shigemi Morita from Japan, and last but not least a member from Mountain Grove Church, Jack McGlawn, to preach his first sermon after his decision to enter the ministry. Shigemi Morita spoke at our Sunday School and church July 24. He showed his pictures that night to a full house and the following Sunday to the E. & R. Sunday School. We enjoy so much our fellowship with the E. & R. Church at Cullman. They are so ready to let us use any and all of their facilities, including their movie machine and projector, even providing an operator when necessary.

This summer we had 34 in attendance at our



"Before"



"After"

Church News

Blackwood Church of Headland, Ala., had a very good Daily Vacation Bible School. Misses Marilee Jones and Mary Steward, Student Summer Service workers, were assisted by Stevetta Greene and Carolyn Hicks. The Religious Education chairman, Mrs. Leonard Faison, and the Women's Fellowship President, Mrs. Espy Kennedy, contributed much in time and service to the success of the school. They ran a truck to pick up the children, served refreshments, as well as helped in the entertaining of the teachers. The cooperation of the entire church and community was excellent.

Our parsonage has a "new look," thanks to the work of the whole community. In February the church decided to put on a new roof, and about the same time the Women's Fellowship decided to paint the parsonage. After two rooms were painted, the Community Farm Bureau decided to take over the parsonage as their project. W. L. Rister donated the paint for the outside of the building. Several committees of this community organization took upon themselves projects until the whole house is painted outside and inside, cabinets are built in the kitchen, back porch repaired and steps built, screens repaired and painted. The Women's Fellowship has installed a large kitchen sink.

Due to the passing away of Kaye Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mervin O. Johnson, of Infantile Paralysis in July, we declared a quarantine for two weeks. For this reason our Revival was postponed.

Since Miss Stevetta Green, our church clerk, is going away to college, she has resigned and Miss Carolyn Hicks has been elected as the new clerk.

Lamar Rister and Lowell Kennedy attended the Junior High Conference at Wadley from our church and enjoyed it very much.

Dora Bracklin, Reporter.

* * *

The P. F. group of **Good Hope Church**, Baker, Fla., had an ice cream supper on the night of July 3. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments and the games; but we missed one of our faithful members, Miss Juanita Nixon, who is now working in Washington, D. C. We wrote a letter to "Nita" with almost everyone present writing a paragraph.

The Good Hope Church conducted its own Daily

Vacation Bible School, conducted by Marilee Jones and Mary Stewart along with local help. Eight young people joined the church during the revival conducted by the Rev. Clyde Flannery. We feel that this new young life will mean much to Garden City Church.

At our last Woman's Fellowship, Mrs. Edd Fanning secured five new subscriptions and one renewal to the **Southeast News**. Mrs. S. A. Price has been elected our new president, with Mrs. B. H. Curl, Vice President, and Mrs. Philip Gletty, Secretary and Treasurer. The fellowship voted to make one of their goals for this year a twenty-five dollar scholarship for Southern Union College.

Vacation Bible School this year and it was very successful. We decided it would be better training for some of our members to conduct this school instead of depending upon someone else to do it. We think some of the other church would find it to their advantage to try this method too.

Our Revival meeting was held the same week as Bible School. The Rev. Herbert Long, son of our pastor, the Rev. N. A. Long, was our guest speaker. We received one member by letter during the meeting.

* * *

The young people of **Noon Day Church**, Wedowee, met on Sunday night, August 1, and organized themselves into a Pilgrim Fellowship, under the guidance of Rev. Carl Dollar.

Edgar Hopkins was elected president of the organization and Billy Wood Carpenter was made vice president. Beth Strain will be the secretary-treasurer and Mr. Gilbert Huey the adult advisor.

There was a nice group present for the meeting and it is believed that others will be joining.

Prof. Charles Newcombe spent the fourth weekend in June with Dr. and Mrs. Guy L. Colbert. Friday night they went out to a prayer meeting at **Bethlehem Church** in Lawrence County, and Rev. Newcombe explained the United Church of Canada and brought an inspiring message. On June 27 the Canadian minister brought both the morning and evening messages at **Mountain Grove Church**.

Professor Newcombe has now returned to his position with the Old Testament Department of the University of Manitoba after completing a year of postgraduate and research work at Vanderbilt as Hillel Fellow.

The pastor of Mountain Grove enjoyed a week at the Senior High Camp in Wadley where he taught three courses and (with a good deal of help) acted as Dean of Men. Certificates for the Bible and Christian Training Courses are being prepared with the cooperation of Southern Union College. The following New Testament Students who wrote examinations on "The Life of Jesus" will receive Certificates "Cum Laude": Glenda Washburn, Fritz Mehrtens, Pauline Mehrtens, Peggy O'Neal, Randall Sims, Frank Bell, Betty Sue Baisden, Glenda Sue Newman, Burt Prater, Jr. All who attended four or more sessions will receive regular certificates.

Mountain Grove held its Vacation Bible School July 26-31, under the leadership of Miss Sherron VanSant, one of our own young people who will enter Southern Union this fall.

Our Revival and Evangelistic campaign was held August 8-15 under the leadership of the Rev. R. E. Stevenson, pastor of Bethesda Methodist Church, Allisona, Tenn.

Guy L. Colbert, pastor.

* * *

Beauty and simplicity characterized the wedding of Miss Jane Alnutt and Mr. Robert Burkhart in **Eyarts Congregational Christian Church** June 27th. The Rev. Collie Seymour performed the ceremony in a most impressive manner.

There was one addition to the church during the month of July.

Daily Vacation Bible School ran for eight weeks during July, with an average attendance of 50.

A group of members and friends of the church held a picnic at the Texaco Sky-Vu Park on Pine Mountain July 28. Following the picnic lunch, a worship service was conducted.

Signs of welcome to our church have recently been placed on the three highway approaches to town.

Rev. and Mrs. Collie Seymour with their children had a two weeks vacation in North Georgia with their parents and other relatives in August.

During the absence of Mr. Seymour, Williams Buckner and Orbin Coleman, two of our most active church members, conducted services in a most efficient and gracious manner. The pastor and the congregation are most appreciative of this service.

Mrs. N. B. Smith, reporter

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REV. ASHLEY E. HOBBS

The **Friendship Church** of Baxley has enjoyed one of its best years with the Rev. Ashley E. Hobbs as pastor. We have progressed in all phases of the life of the church.

A Laymen's Fellowship has been organized with from fifteen to twenty present each meeting. The Women's Missionary Society and the laymen meet twice each month with the laymen serving refreshments one time and the ladies the next. A few minutes of singing and worship is enjoyed together before going to separate rooms for the regular business meetings.

A fellowship supper is held each month on prayer meeting night, and the Sunday School attendance has nearly doubled in the last two months. Attendance and interest in the regular services has increased. Choir practice is held each week. The Sunday School rooms have been completed and two have been furnished. Two window fans were installed in the church.

The Pilgrim Fellowship is working hard to build

up its membership. There are now about 20 regular members.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Hobbs and with the never ending help of his wife, we expect to progress more each year.

Mrs. W. C. Mincey, reporter

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By most standards of measurement, the summer has been a busy and satisfactory one for **Oak Grove Church** of Chipley, Ga. Aside from the routine phases of the program, there have been some events of real significance which have contributed to the satisfaction of the people of the church.

Two significant services of dedication were held in late May and early June, the first being the dedication of a walnut cross and candlesticks on Children's Day. They were given to the church by the Junior Pilgrim Fellowship. In connection with this dedicatory service, the Junior Choir provided special music.

On Flag Day, attractive Christian and American flags were dedicated. These flags were provided by Mr. and Mrs. James Hodnett, and Mrs. Sallie Crowell and family, in memory of departed loved ones.

The annual Homecoming was observed on the third Sunday of July, and the week thereafter the Rev. Raymond Berry of Andalusia, Ala., was the guest minister for special services each day. Mr. Berry did a very commendable job, and the people of Oak Grove appreciated his fine spirit and excellent sermons.

A Daily Vacation Bible School was held the first week in August. Miss Betty Slater, of Chattanooga, Tenn., was the capable and well-liked director of the school, and she was ably assisted by Misses Eva Hoxsie and Jackie Bass. The school bus, operated by James Lasseter, made the rounds, which assured good attendance, and the expense of this transportation was borne by the Sunday School. Various members of the Missionary Society were responsible for refreshments for the children each day, and a fine spirit of cooperation and graciousness prevailed.

The resignation of the pastor, the Rev. D. W. Shepherd, became effective Sunday, August 15, and on that date the church bulletin carried the following message from the pastor: "Two years ago, the Shepherd family moved into the parsonage at Oak Grove, and since that time we have experienced two of the happiest years in the memory of any one of us. Individually and as a family, we consider it one of the choicest privileges that we had an opportunity to live and serve in the Oak Grove community. Wherever we may go, you may be assured of our continued interest and friendship, and whoever comes to succeed us will need your continued cooperation and devotion. Our new address will be: Vergilina, Virginia, and it will be a genuine pleasure to hear from any of you, or better still, to have you visit us."

Margie McGuire, reporter

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On Sunday, July 11, **Williams Chapel Church**, near Waycross, held a building fund rally with an all day singing and dinner on the ground. As our special guests we had the Jubileers Quartet. The church hopes to raise \$4,500 by December 31 as the

beginning goal. We are well on the way with many pledging and giving to this fund. We are trusting that many more will join us in the wonderful work the Lord has given us to do.

Williams Chapel is proud of its record for the past year, and we look forward to great things in the years to come, as we can "do all things through Christ who strengtheneth us."

F. C. Barner, pastor

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With much regret, we of Atlanta Center Church said goodbye to our beloved pastor, the Rev. Henry Weaver, August 29. Much has been accomplished under his leadership. Inside stairways were built, Sunday School rooms were remodeled and painted asphalt tile and linoleum on all the downstairs floors was installed. A stove, sink and cabinets were placed in the kitchen and gas furnace installed. A Laymen's Club and Pilgrim Fellowship was organized. Seven new members were united with the church. We wish the Rev. Weaver God's speed in whatever work he undertakes.

A two week Vacation Bible School was held the last of July, with all teaching and work done by members of our church. Enrollment was 38.

We are looking forward to having the Rev. M. B. Porter and his wife begin their work with the church in September.

Mabelle Tatum, reporter

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The Daily Vacation Bible School of the Daisy Church was well attended this year, with the added class for teenage girls very popular and successful. On the last day, the children brought box lunches and these were served in the Cabin. Ice-cream and cake and drinks were provided by the adult helpers, with Mrs. Claude Pendergrass serving as chairman again this year.

The Juniors enjoyed a swimming party recently at Camp Dixie. Mrs. Beatrice Blackburn has been assisting Mrs. Claude Pendergrass in her work with the Juniors this summer. Twenty-four were present.

The Daisy Church has formed "The Eddie Ferry Fund", for the three year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Ferry. On July 10 he was operated on for brain tumor. Little Eddie is a member of our Sunday School, and Mrs. Ferry has been very active in church work, being President of the Ladies Guild. Everyone is pulling for Eddie, and we ask all the readers of the SOUTHEAST NEWS to remember Eddie and his family in their prayers.

On June 3, Supt. Butterfield met with the congregation of the Daisy Church and announced that the Rev. J. W. Davenport, our pastor, had decided to go into full retirement because of failing health. He then presented a proposal that the Daisy Church and the Soddy Church form a joint parish. After an open discussion, the church voted their willingness for this action, if such action was satisfactory to Soddy Church. Supt. Butterfield then presented the same proposal to the Soddy congregation, and the Soddy church voted to join Daisy as a joint parish. Since this date Soddy and Daisy have been working hard.

A joint pulpit committee was appointed, con-

sisting of seven members from each church. Mr. Wyatt Sanders of Daisy is Chairman of this joint committee, and Miss Elizabeth Jenkins, of Soddy, is Secretary.

On July 28, a meeting of the joint congregations of the Soddy and Daisy Church was held at the Daisy Church, and at this meeting it was voted to call the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot of Phenix City, Ala., as pastor. Mr. Smoot has accepted the call and hopes to be on the field by Oct. 1.

The Ladies Guild and their families met on July 29 at Camp Dixie for a picnic supper, with 84 attending this outing and enjoying every minute of it.

Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, reporter

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

"KICKOFF"

With fifteen "rahs" for the Fellowship and prayer by the president, and the committee chairmen in a huddle around a make-believe football field, the East Tallassee Woman's Fellowship got off to a good start with a kickoff meeting on Aug. 13 at the home of Mrs. Marrell Rhodes.

Plans were made for the approaching year, which begins in September. Yearbooks were filled in with roll call suggestions, program committees named, goals discussed and a contest explained in detail.

During the social hour, the hostess served peanuts and cokes in keeping with the football theme.

A very spirited group of ladies comprises the 1954-55 roster of officers and committees: President, Mrs. Marrell Rhodes; Vice President, Mrs. Clifton Fralic; Secretary, Miss Nettie Gresham; Treasurer, Miss Willa Durden. Spiritual Life Committee: Mrs. G. F. Logan, chairman; Mrs. Johnnie Cullars, Mrs. Rudolph Taunton, Mrs. Bobby Webster, Mrs. Ed. B. Hammock. Finance and Stewardship Committee: Mrs. Murray Baker, chairman; Mrs. R. L. Fields, Mrs. Robert Scroggins, Mrs. Jim Hammock, Mrs. M. L. Goodman, Mrs. Tom Hammock. Christian Social Action Committee: Mrs. Wilma Pemberton, chairman; Mrs. Edwin Story, Mrs. J. H. Cullars, Mrs. Walter Hammock, Mrs. Howard Griggs, Mrs. Perry Webster. Christian Education Committee: Mrs. Floyd Ballard, chairman; Mrs. Herman Cullars, Mrs. J. W. Sayers, Mrs. Bertha Scoggins, Mrs. Reuben Gooden, Mrs. Fred Barker. Missionary Education Committee: Mrs. Willis J. Burton, chairman; Mrs. Dewitt Cullars, Mrs. Willie Stalnaker, Mrs. Henry Griggs. Friendly Service Committee: Mrs. Tom Blakely, Chairman; Mrs. J. L. Sayers, Mrs. H. T. Pemberton; Mrs. Raymond Lowe. Woman's Gift: Mrs. Herbert Long, chairman; Mrs. Thomas Stalnaker, Mrs. Dallas Barker, Mrs. J. T. Hammock. House Committee: Miss Christine Durden, chairman; Miss Minnie Griggs, Mrs. Edwin Sayers, Mrs. James Pemberton. Hospitality and Membership: Mrs. J. W. Griggs, chairman; Mrs. J. I. Barker, Mrs. J. C. Coleman, and Mrs. J. B. Pemberton.

Mrs. Chas. Messer, reporter



Luke Humphrey Huey, officer of the East Alabama Association for many years, and active in the laymen's work of the association, local church and community, passed away suddenly at his home in Roanoke, June 30, as the result of a heart attack. He was 58 years of age.

Mr. Huey was a prominent merchant of Roanoke, and before that he served as mayor of Wedowee. At the time of his death he was a member of the Roanoke City Council, in which position he had served for ten consecutive years.

He was an active member of the Roanoke First Congregational Christian Church, and although quiet and unassuming, he was a leader in the civic and religious life of his community.

Mr. Huey was born in 1896 in New Hope, Ala. and joined the Noon Day Church at an early age. For years he served as teacher of the Baraca Class and as Sunday School Superintendent. He was a member of the Laymen's Fellowship and served as Treasurer of the East Alabama Association. For 14 years he served as deacon of Roanoke First Church and taught the Adult Class in Sunday School for eight years. He was S. S. Superintendent for four years. He was a faithful member and generous in his support of the church.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Lily Simonton Huey; two daughters, Mrs. Hugh Hood of Atlanta and Miss Shirley Huey of Roanoke; two brothers, A. J. Huey of Roanoke and George Huey of Evergreen; two sisters, Mrs. W. O. Green and Mrs. O. G. McCain both of Roanoke; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were held from the Roanoke First Church on July 2, with the Rev. Olin Shepard, the Rev. S. M. Penn, and the Rev. J. D. Dollar officiating.

REV. HUNT COMMISSIONED

(From page 2)

Colonel on the staff of Governor Lawrence W. Wetherby. The presentation was made by Mr. T. L. Mason on behalf of the Governor.

Mr. Hunt is Moderator of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention, in addition to being pastor of the Community Church of Stearns.

OUR MODERATOR AND FIRST LADY

(From page 4)

Mr. Smoot was in Seminary in Nashville, Mrs. Smoot taught in the Davison County schools there.

Thus far this summer she has attended the General Council with her husband, helped with the Junior and Senior High Camps at Wadley, headed the Retreat for the Alabama Women, attended the Social Action Council meeting in Massachusetts, and acted as Resource Leader for the Georgia Women's Retreat in Waycross.

With the ever increasing responsibilities, the team of Smoot and Smoot find it hard to say "no". They are happiest when busy in God's Kingdom.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP OFFICERS

(From page 6)

per member to Southeast Convention (paid in March).

- 5) Five missionary programs a year.
- 6) At least one delegate from every church to Waycross Summer Conference.
- 7) Fellowship with other youth groups of our own or other denominations.
- 8) Organize or help strengthen some other P. F.
- 9) Stimulate the use of daily devotional literature among P. F. members.
- 10) Help strengthen your local church by backing some needed project.

GEORGIA WOMEN'S PROJECT

(From page 7)

Puerto Rico. There has been a special appeal for money for 180 nets at \$3.50 each.

How much can you or your fellowship give to help those in need to have better health? This is a large undertaking and it will require the co-operation of ALL GEORGIA WOMEN to complete the project by October 12-13 or state conference time. Please send your contribution to your state Friendly Service Chairman, Mrs. Woodrow James, Axson, Ga.